

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform I'd like to submit the following written testimony for consideration by the Committee and for inclusion in the printed record of the hearing.

Below you will see an email from Hillary Clinton Campaign Chairman and founder of the Center for American Progress (CAP), John Podesta. It is my opinion that in this email Mr. Podesta provides an accurate and astute characterization of the American public's view toward carbon taxes.

From: john.podesta@gmail.com
To: jake.sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 2015-01-07 18:41
Subject: Re: Additional Names -- Policy

On another matter, we have done extensive polling on carbon tax.
It all
sucks.

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In addition to public opinion polling, Mr. Podesta also requested that CAP provide a memo detailing the economic impacts of a carbon tax for the Clinton campaign's review.² The CAP memo found that "a \$42/ton GHG fee increases gasoline prices by roughly 40 cents per gallon on average between 2020 and 2030 and residential electricity prices by 2.6 cents per kWh, 12% and 21% above levels projected in the EIA's 2014 Annual Energy Outlook respectively. Average household energy costs would increase by roughly \$480 per year, or 10% relative to the levels projected in EIA's 2014 Outlook."

The memo goes on to state that under a carbon tax "the cost of other household goods and services would increase as well as companies pass forward the higher energy costs paid to produce those goods and services on to consumers" and "as with the increase in energy costs, the increase in the cost of non-energy goods and services would disproportionately impact low income households."³

¹ "Re: Additional Names -- Policy." *WikiLeaks*, wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/16655.

² Holden, Emily, and Hannah Hess. "WIKILEAKS: Clinton Memos Reveal in-Depth Study of Carbon Tax." *WIKILEAKS: Clinton Memos Reveal in-Depth Study of Carbon Tax -- Thursday, October 20, 2016*, www.eenews.net/stories/1060044610.

³ Ogden, Pete, et al. *Key Climate/Energy Issues and Potential Initiatives*. E&E News, 11 Mar. 2015, www.eenews.net/assets/2016/10/20/document_pm_02.pdf.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the 2015 CAP memo is that it describes a \$42/ton carbon tax and “dividend” proposal designed by the Center for American Progress itself – a policy idea strikingly similar to the carbon tax supported by organizations like Climate Leadership Council, a group started in February 2017 after Republicans had just taken full control of government.⁴ Perhaps Climate Leadership Council’s founding members Michael Bloomberg, Larry Summers and former Obama Energy Secretary Steven Chu could provide more insight into why a “conservative” organization would advocate for policy created by the Center for American Progress.⁵

I look forward to working with Members of the Ways and Means Committee as you continue to examine carbon tax policy and the ruinous impact it has on American families. If the Committee plans to hold future hearings related to a carbon tax, I would be happy to make myself available as a witness and offer oral testimony as to why the government artificially raising energy costs for all Americans is a bad idea.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

⁴ “Mission.” *Climate Leadership Council*, www.clcouncil.org/mission/.

⁵ Wald, Ellen R. “The Climate Leadership Council's Devious Plan To Distract American Carbon Consumers.” *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 20 June 2017, www.forbes.com/sites/ellenrwald/2017/06/20/the-climate-leadership-councils-devious-plan-to-distract-american-carbon-consumers/#18bc6aa66ad6.